PLANNING COMMISISON SITE PLAN WAIVER REQUEST ONLY

CASE NUMBER:

SP-2010-0198C

PLANNING COMMISSION

HEARING DATE: November 9, 2010

PROJECT NAME:

Town Lake YMCA

ADDRESS:

1100 W. Cesar Chavez

NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN:

Old West Austin

APPLICANT:

YMCA (James Finck) - (512) 322-9622

6219 Oakclaire Dr Austin, TX 78735

AGENT:

Griffin Engineering Group, Inc. (Greg Griffin) – (512) 836-3113

11711 N. Lamar Blvd Austin, TX 78753

CASE MANAGER:

Sarah Graham

Phone: 974-2826

sarah.graham@ci.austin.tx.us

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:

The YMCA site consists of a 4.8 acre site with an existing 57,703 sq ft building currently used as Indoor Sports and Recreation. The proposed development includes a building addition of 8,118 sq ft to be added to the front of the existing building, as well as a plaza, and associated parking improvements.

VARIANCE REQUESTED:

The applicant is requesting a variance from the 25-2-736(E) which prohibits surface parking in the Waterfront Overlay Lamar Sub District, except for a parking area for buses, van pooling, the handicapped, or public access to park land. The proposed construction shows an improved building façade and plaza at the front of the building, which will replace eighteen parking spaces. The applicant proposes to add new surface parking to the west of the building, whereas the total number of parking spaces will be 213 spaces total.

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the variance request with conditions (see below), based on the findings of the Waterfront Planning Advisory Board. The Waterfront Planning Advisory Board recommended the project with conditions after determining that the proposed project and variance are consistent with the goals and policies of the Town Lake Corridor Study, as required under § 25-2-713. The site plan complies with all requirements of the Land Development Code.

PROJECT INFORMATION

SITE AREA	209,106 square feet	4.8 acres
EXISTING ZONING	LI-CO-NP	
WATERSHED	Town Lake (Urban)	
WATERSHED ORDINANCE	Comprehensive Watershed Ordinance (Urban)	
TRAFFIC IMPACT ANALYSIS	Not required	
CAPITOL VIEW CORRIDOR	Barton Creek Pedestrian Bridge	

PROPOSED ACCESS	B.R. Reynolds Drive			
	Allowed/Required	Existing	Proposed	
FLOOR-AREA RATIO	1:1	.271:1	.31:1	0
BUILDING COVERAGE	75%	15.4%	19%	
IMPERVIOUS COVERAGE	80%	54%	61%	
PARKING	132	188	216	

SUMMARY COMMENTS ON SITE PLAN:

The YMCA site consists of a 4.8 acre site with an existing 57,703 sq ft building currently used as Indoor Sports and Recreation. This use is an allowed use per their zoning category — LI-CO-NP. The site's associated conditional uses pertain to conditional and prohibited uses, none of which are being proposed. This project is located within the Lamar Subdistrict portion of the Waterfront Overlay Combining District.

The site plan shows a plaza and an 8,118 sq ft building addition added to the front of the building, both face the baseball fields and Lady Bird Lake. Other associated improvements include sidewalks, landscaping and additional parking. The applicant is requesting a variance from the 25-2-736(E) which prohibits surface parking in the Waterfront Overlay Lamar Sub District.

Waterfront Overlay

According to the Land Development Code, Section § 25-2-721(A)(1), approval of a site plan by the Land Use Commission is required if an applicant requests a waiver from the Waterfront Overlay requirements. According to LDC § 25-2-721(A)(3), the Land Use Commission shall request a recommendation from the Waterfront Planning Advisory Board before approving or denying a site plan within the Waterfront Overlay combining district and shall consider the recommendation provided by the board. The Waterfront Planning Advisory Board is to give a recommendation based on the criteria listed in § 25-2-713 - Variances, and § 25-2-715 - Review and Recommendation of the Waterfront Planning Advisory Board.

According to § 25-2-713 and § 25-2-715, the Waterfront Planning Advisory Board may recommend approval of the variance after determining that the proposed project and variance are consistent with the goals and policies of the Town Lake Corridor Study, including environmental protection, aesthetic enhancement, and traffic; and the variance is the minimum required by the peculiarities of the tract. If the board recommends approval of a variance, the director shall forward the board's recommendation to the Land Use Commission, which shall consider the recommendation and the variance application at the next regularly scheduled meeting for which notice can be timely provided. The Land Use Commission shall grant or deny the variance, and an interested party may appeal the Land Use Commission's grant or denial of a variance to the council.

The addition to the existing YMCA building is in alignment with the goals and policies of the Town Lake Corridor Study. The goals include creating superior planning, design and mixing of land uses that are waterfront dependent - the YMCA's goals of promoting physical health and their land use plan to connect their building to the parkland through the proposed plaza meets the intent of this goal. Another goal includes fostering a cooperative atmosphere in the corridor for the City, neighborhoods, and private landowners to work jointly to realize potential of the waterfront - the YMCA has been working closely with the Parks Department to improve the connection between adjacent parkland and the YMCA lot. Providing maximum visual and physical access to the waterfront is another goal - one which is demonstrated with the proposed plaza to encourage access. The applicant is also adding a shaded walkway connecting the building to Lamar Boulevard. Another goal of the Waterfront Overlay is to create a rich varied cultural environment in the corridor, geared to all age groups, cultural/educational expressions and interests - which is demonstrated by the YMCA as a well-respected non-profit group. The final goal that is clearly met by the YMCA project is to recognize full potential of the Town Lake creeks as open space connectors, form-shapers of urban development, and focal points for lively pedestrian-

oriented mixed use. The YMCA's location between multi-family residential, the Amtrak Station, and parkland, as well as their plans to improve the site's connectivity meets the intent of this goal.

On October 11, 2010, the Waterfront Planning Advisory Board recommended approval of the variance with the following conditions:

- The applicant shall evaluate sustainable construction standards.
- The applicant shall reconsider screening landscape design for the new parking area, as well as bio-treatment of the parking lot.
- The applicant shall explore agreements with the City and other adjacent land owners concerning shared parking as part of a long-range plan.
- City staff shall give an informal update to the Waterfront Overlay Advisory Board as to how the case progressed through the public hearings and permitting process.
- The Land Use Commission is urged to seek a presentation by the applicant on how these issues were addressed.

The applicant has responded to each of the above recommendations in the attached document prepared by the Project Architect Keith Hickman, AIA.

According to LDC 25-2-721(A)(4), the Land Use Commission shall request a recommendation from the Environmental Board before approving or denying a site plan within the Waterfront Overlay combining district and shall consider the recommendation provided by the board. Based on the changes the applicant made to the site plan since the Waterfront Planning Advisory Board hearing, this case received a recommendation for approval from the Environmental Board on October 20, 2010.

Environmental

This project is located in the Town Lake watershed, which is an urban watershed. Sixty-two trees were surveyed, of which 10 are proposed to be removed. No heritage trees are proposed to be removed with the project.

Drainage and Water Quality

The project utilized Fee in Lieu of providing on-site water quality control. This is in compliance with current water quality requirement for the urban watershed. No variances were required for water quality or drainage for this project. The project is discharging directly into Lady Bird Lake with direct conveyance, therefore requires no on-site detention pond.

The YMCA site meets standards for acceptance into the "Fee-in-Lieu of Structural Controls in Urban Watersheds", program per ECM 1.6.4.B. Though the "limits of construction" were grossly defined as 1.5 acres, the actual permit is for .15 acres of new impervious cover and .33 acres of redevelopment. This project then, is proposing a commercial development of 1 acre or less that is substantially developed with existing impervious cover. Additionally it is not within 500 feet Lady Bird Lake. Also key is that the site is unusually elongate and contains significant trees, adding to the ideal candidacy of the property for the Fee in Lieu program. Please remember that acceptance into the program is not a release from responsible development. This project is significantly funding regional controls to be built by the City in a more efficient setting.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the variance request with the following conditions:

- The applicant shall include sustainable construction standards via pervious concrete in low points of the new parking areas and Fee-in-Lieu of Structural Controls in Urban Watersheds.
- The applicant shall revise screening landscape design for the new parking area with plantings to be approximately 5' high at maturity.

 The applicant shall continue working on a parking agreement with the City's Park and Recreation Department concerning shared parking as part of a long-range plan.

The applicant shall provide an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan.

EXISTING ZONING AND LAND USES

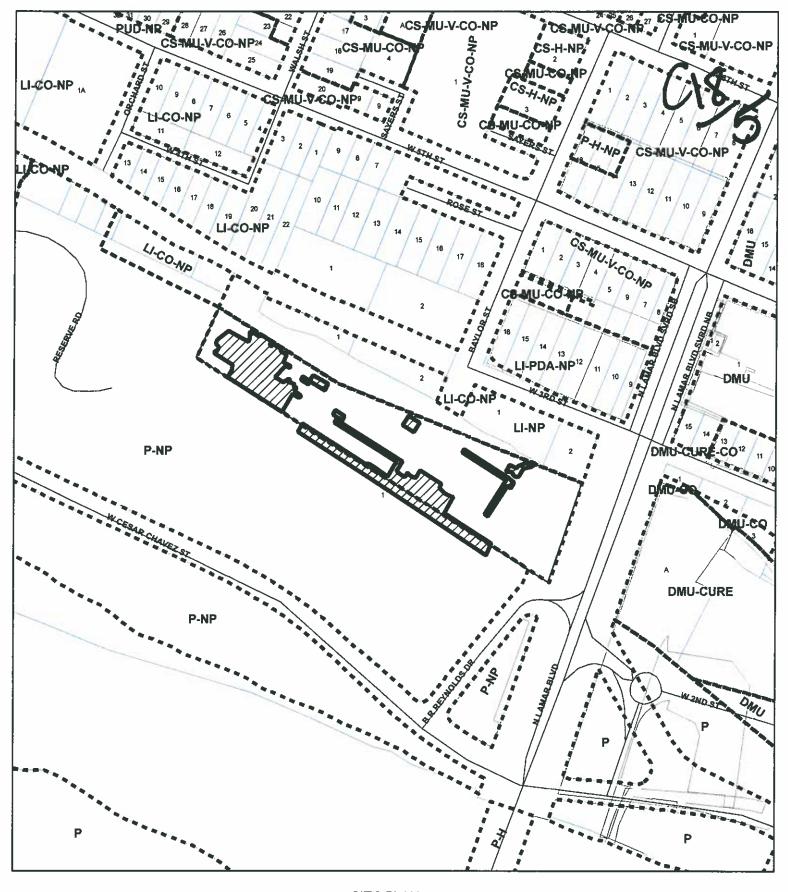
	ZONING	ZONING LAND USES	
Site	LI-CO-NP	Indoor Sports and Recreation	
North	LI-NP	Amtrak	
South	P-NP	Parkland, then W Cesar Chavez St	
East	DMU-CURE	N Lamar Blvd, then Condominium Residential	
West	P-NP	Town Lake Animal Shelter	

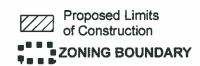
ABUTTING STREETS

Street	Right-of-Way Width	Pavement Width	Classification
Lamar Blvd	200 ft	55 ft	MAD 4
BR Reynolds Dr	60 ft	33 ft	Collector

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGNIZATIONS:

- 18- Old West Austin Neighborhood Association
- 57 Original Austin Neighborhood Association
- 384 Save Barton Creek Association
- 402 Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association
- 511 Austin Neighborhoods Council
- 623 City of Austin Downtown Commission
- 742 Austin Independent School District
- 744 Sentral Plus East Austin Koalition (SPEAK)
- 767 Downtown Austin Neighborhood Coalition
- 786 Home Builders Association of Greater Austin
- 998 West End Austin Alliance
- 1004 Save Town Lake.Org
- 1006 Central West Austin Combined COA Liaison
- 1037 Homeless Neighborhood Assn.
- 1075 League of Bicycling Voters
- 1011 Old West Austin Neighborhood Planning Contact Team
- 1113 Austin Parks Foundation
- 1200 Super Duper Neighborhood Objectors and Appealers Organization
- 1224 Austin Monorail Project
- 1228 Sierra Club, Austin Regional Group
- 1236 The Real Estate Council of Austin, Inc.
- 1243 Waterfront Planning Advisory Board
- 1274 Old West Austin Neighborhood Planning COA Liaison





300 Feet

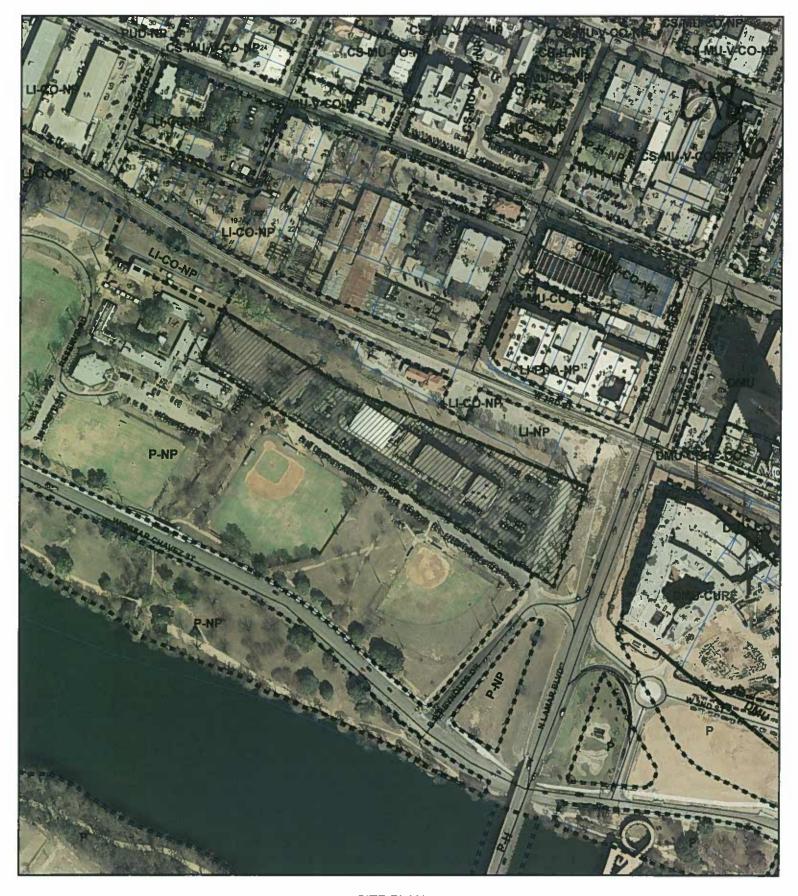
150

SITE PLAN

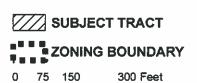
CASE#: SP-2010-0198C ADDRESS: 1100 E CESAR CHAVEZ ST

MANAGER: SARAH GRAHAM









SITE PLAN

CASE#: SP-2010-0198C

ADDRESS: 1100 E CESAR CHAVEZ ST

MANAGER: SARAH GRAHAM



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Response to WPAB's conditions - Project Architect Keith Hickman

Following is an item by item response to the concerns of the Waterfront Overlay Board concerning Town Lake YMCA located on Cesar Chavez in Austin, Texas. We started with the Goals of the Waterfront Overlay Advisory Board and finished directly addressing the actual requirements of the Board. The YMCA feels that we have exceeded the requirements of the Waterfront Overlay Advisory Board. Thanks for your consideration.



Following are the Goals of the Waterfront Overlay Advisory Board with our comments:

Create superior planning, design and mixing of land uses that are waterfront related

The design of the front outdoor space, as well as the planting gardens, displays a superior response to waterfront related activities. The YMCA takes great pride in being an access point to the Lady Bird Lake Trail System. The YMCA intends to modify this access point so it complements the Y and enhances the Trail Access.

Foster a cooperative atmosphere in the corridor for the City, neighborhoods, and private landowners to work jointly to realize potential of the waterfront

Planning for this Project started with the YMCA approaching the PARD in a master planning effort so we can both enhance the waterfront experience. The YMCA has met with team sport representatives, neighborhood associations, City of Austin traffic engineers, and PARD to implement a plan for the entire area. One of the things that came out as a common theme was a shortage of parking. All the participating groups appreciated the YMCA in bringing all parties together for a coordinated approach to the area.

Provide maximum visual and physical access to the waterfront; encourage pedestrian access to and use of the corridor

The design of the building additions to the YMCA are extremely transparent to the waterfront area. Great views of Lady Bird Lake from both inside and outside are outstanding. The outdoor plaza area offers an area for all to enjoy the outside while providing a space for community gathering. As said before, the access point to the trail system is greatly improved.

Establish a spiritual as well as physical relationship between the community and the waterfront; enable citizens to develop a stronger waterfront ethic.

The new entrance plaza provides a space for individuals, small groups and performers to gather for spiritual gatherings as well as enjoy many different physical activities. The planting gardens will provide a space for growing organic foods while providing a spiritual experience of tilling the soil. It is all about communing with nature.

Create a rich and varied cultural environment in the Corridor, geared to all age groups, cultural/educational expressions and interests

Both small children and senior adults will be able to enjoy the plaza area and planting areas. It is the YMCA's desire that these two groups find a common area so they can interact together. The performance area will be awesome for small concerts, debates, and other outdoor activities.

Recognize full potential of the Town lake Creeks as open space connectors, form-shapers of urban development, and focal points for lively pedestrian-oriented mixed use.

The YMCA's adjacency to both the trail and Lamar Blvd. allows for varied connectors to the Lake as well as the downtown residents. The Lamar Blvd. will be lined with trees that will provide a cooling and shaded approach to the YMCA. The access point is also ADA compliant.



Next, the YMCA has addressed how we have met or exceeded the requirements of the Waterfront Overlay Advisory Board recommendations. The areas around and adjacent to the YMCA facility will be greatly improved and enhanced by these meaningful additions and renovations.

"The applicant shall evaluate sustainable construction standards"

Gregory Griffin, Civil Engineer of Record, has met with the City of Austin Engineering Staff
concerning this requirement. The original request from the City was to do a Fee in Lieu
agreement for on-site water quality control agreement. These agreements are standard for
Project located within urban watersheds. The City uses these funds to help improve conditions
at other locations on Lady Bird Lake. The YMCA has already paid this fee. Following is a letter
from the City engineer concerning this fee in lieu program:

From: Nikorak, Forrest

Sent: Monday, October 18, 2010 11:28 AM

To: Graham, Sarah; Ho, Benny

Subject: RE: Env Board Agenda Item 4a

Sarah:

The YMCA site meets standards for acceptance into the "Fee-in-Lieu of Structural Controls in Urban Watersheds", program per ECM 1.6.4.B.

Though the "limits of construction" were grossly defined as 1.5 acres, the actual permit is for .15 acres of new impervious cover and .33 acres of redevelopment. This project then, is proposing a commercial development of 1 acre or less that is substantially developed with existing impervious cover. Additionally it is not within 500 feet Lady Bird Lake.

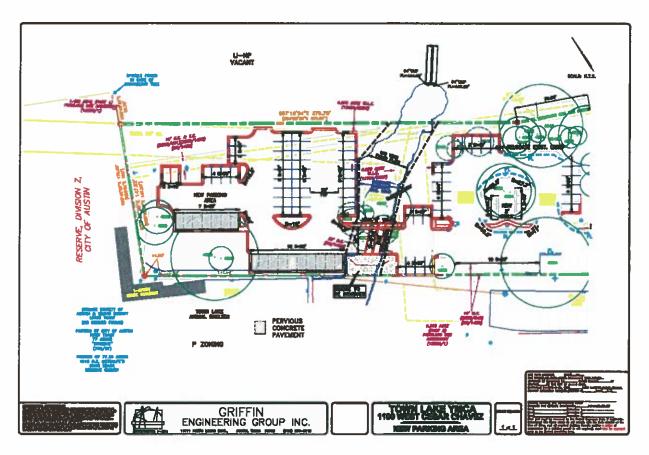
Also key is that the site is unusually elongate and contains significant trees, adding to the ideal candidacy of the property for the Fee in Lieu program.

Please remember that acceptance into the program is not a release from responsible development. This project is significantly funding regional controls to be built by the City in a more in a more efficient setting.

Forrest Nikorak, P.E.
Supervising Engineer - Land Use Review Division
Planning and Development Review Dept.
City of Austin
(512) 974-2239
forrest.nikorak@ci.austin.tx.us

Criteria for Fee-in Lieu of Structural Controls in Urban Watersheds

Gregory Griffin also met with City engineers concerning permeable pavers and has modified his
plan accordingly with two rows of parking spaces that have been converted to permeable
paving. Drawing below shows the location of these revisions. The revised parking rows occur at
the low point of the parking area so they will aid in the filtration of the planned parking area.



New Parking Area Landscape Screening Plan

The areas shown in grey are the locations of the pervious concrete paving.



- One of the concerns voiced within the comments we received from the Planning Commission is that the "While tree mitigation is adequately provided the parking lot is left barren and relatively free of valuable tree shading." Daniel Woodroffe Waterfront Planning Advisory Board
 - o Following is a shading study showing the amount of shading on the new parking area at different times of day. We choose November 2, 2010 as the time of the year.



Figure 1 - 8:00 am Parking Lot Shading

Figure 2 - 10:00 am Parking Lot Shading



Figure 3 - 12:00 noon Parking Lot Shading

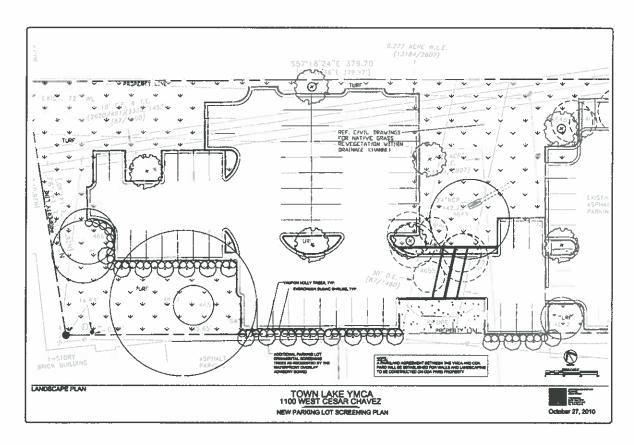
Figure 4 - 2:00 pm Parking Lot Shading

As you can see from these studies, the Parking Area is not left barren, but receives shading throughout the day. We have retained many of the existing trees as well as planted new trees. Seven new trees have been added to the new Parking Area to replace the six trees removed from the existing drainage ditch.

 The YMCA feels that the preceding shows an effort to comply with the requirement of the Waterfront Overlay Advisory Board's Recommendation that we evaluate sustainable construction standards



- "The applicant shall reconsider screening landscape design for the new parking area, as well as bio-treatment of the parking lot."
 - The YMCA's Landscape Architect has modified the plans according to the request of the Waterfront Overlay Advisory Board in providing additional plantings, varied plantings and the height of said plantings. The plantings have been changed to be approximately 5' high at maturity. The drawing below shows the changes that have been made:



Revised Parking Lot Screening Plan

Please reference the previous points concerning bio-treatment. These include Fee in Lieu and
the permeable paving shown in the previous drawings. The YMCA feels that these, in
conjunction with the shading of the Parking Area meet the spirit of the Waterfront Overlay
Advisory Boards recommendation.

 "The applicant shall explore agreements with the City and other adjacent land owners concerning shared parking as part of a long-range plan."

• The YMCA has been working in earnest to obtain a shared parking agreement with the Austin PARD. Attached is the cover page of such an agreement. This agreement will have to be approved by the Austin City Council before we can report that we have been successful in meeting this recommendation. All signs are good for approval.

PARKLAND IMPROVEMENT AGREEMENT (YMCA Town Lake Branch)

Effective Date:	, 2010	
This Parkland Improvemen	t Agreement (this "A	Agreement") is made on the Effective
Date between the [YMCA OF AU	JSTIN, a	corporation] ("YMCA"), and th
CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS, a Tex	as home-rule city and	municipal corporation (the "City").

WHEREAS, YMCA owns and operates an exercise and recreational facility located at 1100 W. Cesar Chavez St., Austin, Texas 78703 (the "Facility").

WHEREAS, the Facility is adjacent to a City-owned park complex (the "Park") managed by the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department ("PARD").

WHEREAS, YMCA desires to renovate and expand the Facility in a manner that will affect a portion of the Park (the "Project").

WHEREAS, the City desires that YMCA construct the Project because it will improve the usefulness and appeal of the portion of the Park affected by the Project and will provide additional parking for the Park's users.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the premises and the mutual promises and covenants contained in this Agreement, YMCA and the City agree as follows:

L TERM

The term of this Agreement will commence on the Effective Date and will terminate on the earlier to occur of the date that (a) is twenty (20) years after the Effective Date, or (b) the Facility is no longer operated exclusively as a YMCA, unless sooner terminated as provided in this Agreement (the "Term").

II. DESIGNATION OF CITY REPRESENTATIVE

The City designates the Director of PARD (the "Director") as its authorized representative to act on the City's behalf with respect to this Agreement. The City may change its authorized representative from time to time.

- "City staff shall give an informal update to the Waterfront Overlay Advisory Board as to how the case progressed through the public hearings and permitting process."
 - The YMCA does not have any comment or control over this requirement but offer visual aids necessary to fulfill this request.
- "The Land Use Commission is urged to seek a presentation by the applicant on how these issues were addressed."
 - The YMCA does not have any comment or control over this requirement but offer visual aids necessary to fulfill this request.

One additional item that the YMCA is working towards is the integration of an Integrated Pest Management Plan. This plan involves on-site pest management, landscaping, or facility maintenance.



	Project Information
Project Name:	Town Lake YMCA
Case Number:	SP-2010-0198C
Project Type:	Purpose
Project Address:	1100
Project Street Name:	West Cesar Chavez
Project Zip Code	78703
email:	Gengineering @Austin.rr.com
	Project Developer
Сопрану	YMCA of Austin
Contact Person	James P. Fmck
Address	1402 East Cesar Chavez
Phone #	(512) 322-9622
Fari	(512) 457-1972
Reviewer	michaelclay
Plat on File?	Yes
	Reason for IPM Plan
	Ordinance Requirement

Environmental Criteria Manual Requirement

Wet Ponds: NO Vegetative Filter Strip: NO

Rainharvest: NO Non-required Vegetation: NO

Retention/Irrigation: NO Biofiltration: NO

Disconnection of Impervious Cover: NO Rain Garden: NO

The YMCA feels that we have met all the requirements of the Waterfront Overlay Advisory Board's Recommendations. We look forward to showing our presentation to the entire Planning Commission. We hope that this written explanation aids in the Commission's final decision. The Applicant wants to continue to be instrumental in properly developing the waterfront in a responsible manner.

Please call if you have any comments or questions.

Keith A. Hickman, AIA

Project Architect

